

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 13~~ An underwater laser processing method, comprising:

irradiating a condensed laser beam generated by a laser source to a certain point of an underwater workpiece;

supplying gas to the certain point from a nozzle having a gas exit, the nozzle having an area surrounding the gas exit that extends to the surface of the workpiece for keeping the supplied gas between the nozzle and the workpiece, wherein the nozzle is formed as a disk having a flat surface area extending in a circumferential direction thereof and having the gas exit at the center thereof; and

supplying a welding wire from within the nozzle to the certain point, wherein the nozzle has a circular groove on the surface facing the workpiece.

16. – 21. (Canceled)